SYSTEM / VICTIM FOCUS

Overview

- Define victim focus
- Process for blaming the victim
- Factors that promote victim focus
- Define system focus
- Methods to prevent victim focus

Victim Focus

- Reactive problem solving
- Sees the victim as the cause
- Focuses on “Fixing” the victim
- Narrow approach to problem solving

Steps in Blaming the Victim

- Identify a social problem
- Study those affected & how they are differences
- Define differences as the cause
- Implement actions to correct differences

Social Factors that Promote Victim Focus

- Unequal status
- Distortions of reality
- Acceptance of victimization

System Focus Approach

- **Proactive problem-solving**
- **Identifies the problem as being part of, or caused by the System**
- **Improve the system to prevent future problems**

Why System Focus not Commonly Used

- Not a quick fix
- Victim desires conformity
- Self perpetuating process

Methods to Prevent Victim Focus

- **Dialogue**
- **Assessment & feedback**

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